

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 32

Recognizing the historic steps India and Pakistan have taken toward achieving bilateral peace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historic steps India and Pakistan have taken toward achieving bilateral peace.

Whereas the Republic of India achieved its independence from the British Empire on August 15, 1947, is home to some of the most ancient civilizations, and has given birth to 4 major world religions;

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was created on August 14, 1947 and is home to many of the significant sites of the 4,500-year old Indus Valley Civilization;

Whereas in April 2003 former Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee offered the “hand of friendship” to Pakistan in a landmark address made in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

Whereas on November 23, 2003, the Pakistani Prime Minister M.Z. Jamali announced a unilateral cease-fire by Pakistani forces at the Line of Control to begin on the final night of Ramadan, November 26th;

Whereas the cease-fire begun on November 26, 2003, was expanded to apply to the entire shared border and has since been made permanent;

Whereas in February 2004 India and Pakistan began their first formal talks in nearly 3 years, paving the way for full peace talks;

Whereas in June 2004 India and Pakistan reaffirmed their unilateral moratorium on nuclear weapons tests and set up a hotline to alert each other to potential nuclear risks;

Whereas in September 2004 India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf met for talks in New York on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly and at the conclusion of these talks they issued a joint statement in which they agreed that on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir "possible options for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the issue should be explored";

Whereas in April 2005 India and Pakistan launched a landmark bus service across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, allowing families divided by the Line of Control to be reunited for the first time in nearly 60 years;

Whereas on April 18, 2005, India and Pakistan concluded a historic 3-day summit in India in which Prime Minister Singh and President Musharraf held meaningful talks on all issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir,

and came to a series of agreements to boost trade and cross-border travel;

Whereas “in this spirit the two leaders addressed the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and agreed to continue these discussions in a sincere and purposeful and forward looking manner for a final settlement” and “they were satisfied with the discussions and expressed their determination to work together to carry forward the process and to bring the benefit of peace to their people” as stated by the joint statement signed by Prime Minister Singh and President Musharraf;

Whereas both leaders “condemned attempts to disrupt the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service and welcomed its successful operationalisation” and “pledged that they would not allow terrorism to impede the peace process”;

Whereas both leaders “decided to increase the frequency of the bus service and also decided that trucks would be allowed to use this route to promote trade” and “also agreed to operationalise additional routes including that between Poonch and Rawalakot” and “look forward to early start of the bus service between Amritsar and Lahore and to religious places such as Nankana Sahib” and “agreed to re-establish the Khokhrapar-Munnabao route by 1st January 2006”;

Whereas at the conclusion of the talks Prime Minister Singh and President Musharraf declared in their joint statement that “conscious of the historic opportunity created by the improved environment in relations and the overwhelming desire of the peoples of the two countries for durable peace and recognizing their responsibility to continue to move forward towards that objective, the two

leaders had substantive talks on all issues” and “they determined that the peace process was now irreversible”;

Whereas Pakistan and India launched a second bus service across the Line of Control in Kashmir on June 20, 2006;

Whereas on June 30, 2006, India and Pakistan exchanged 56 civilian prisoners, including 38 Pakistanis and 19 Indians; and

Whereas on September 16, 2006, India’s Prime Minister Singh and Pakistan’s President Musharraf met and issued a joint statement which renewed their commitment to the peace process, condemned all acts of terrorism including the recent Mumbai bombings, and agreed to continue their joint search for mutually acceptable options for a peaceful negotiated settlement of all issues between India and Pakistan, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “India-Pakistan
4 Peace Resolution”.

5 **SEC. 2. RECOGNIZING INDIA AND PAKISTAN.**

6 The House of Representatives—

7 (1) congratulates India and Pakistan on taking
8 monumental steps toward achieving a comprehensive
9 peace agreement;

10 (2) applauds Prime Minister Singh and Presi-
11 dent Musharraf for their leadership in bringing their
12 two nations together; and

- 1 (3) calls upon both India and Pakistan to con-
- 2 tinue down this path of peace so that their children
- 3 may realize a harmonious future.

